

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

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Dear President Sproull:

Since its inception the Central Intelligence Agency has sought to maintain effective relationships with scholars and academic institutions throughout the United States. Over the years these relationships have been of inestimable value to the intelligence community. I hope and believe that the relationship has been of mutual benefit. In the wake of the considerable public criticism over the past several years of our nation's intelligence operations, this relationship has become somewhat tender. I would like to ask your help and advice in determining how best to restore a useful but proper connection between academia and the world of intelligence.

Clearly there are limits beyond which we in the intelligence world should not go in dealing with members of the academic community. I do have very express rules with respect to that today, but how we are operating within these rules is not always clear to others. Today there are also many new opportunities to use unclassified information derived through the collection of intelligence for the benefit of academic research. I do not believe that we have the proper mechanisms today to insure the adequate provision of such information to academic institutions.

Accordingly, I would like to ask you to join with several other university presidents and me here at the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters on the 10th of March. The objective would be to have a free-flowing exchange of ideas on how to reestablish the academic-intelligence relationship on a sound and proper basis for mutual advantage. This will be a quiet, private meeting of ten to twelve of us, during which we will take the opportunity of asking you to visit our CIA facilities and meet with a variety of our Agency officers representing a diverse group of intellectual disciplines. My hope would be that in your spending a day with us, our relationships might improve to our mutual benefit, taking into full account the problems of the past and the attitudes of the present.

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I would be most grateful if you could take the time to do this
[REDACTED]
this letter personally so that he can be available to discuss my
invitation further with you and help to make arrangements if, as I
hope, you are able to accept.

Yours sincerely,
/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Dr. Robert Sproull, President
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